

Push Button Operation For Future Farms Seen

MANHATTAN — The day of push button agriculture will have arrived by the year 2,000, suggests an article appearing in the December, 1957, issue of the Kansas State College Ag Student, monthly magazine published for students in the School of Agriculture.

Gary Yeakley, Hoisington, editor of the magazine and author of the article, foresees underground feed lots, Puricator irrigation, copto - spraying, selective hormones, and remote controlled turbo - jet tractors, among other things.

Advantage of the underground feedlots is that feed and water can be sterilized, and air filtered and purified to eliminate diseases.

Deep wells to an apparently inexhaustible supply of salt water would provide irrigation water after it had been run through a "Puricator".

Selective use of plant hormones would stimulate, delay, or stop growth, as desired, and also control diseases and weeds. The

hormones would be applied by helicopter spray units.

Remote controlled turbo - jet tractors could be operated from the farmhouse, but these are soon to be out-dated by atomic-powered tractors.

For the future (after 2,000 A.D.,

that is) Yeakley thinks the earth may be used principally as a dwelling place, with agricultural products coming from nearby planets. This could well open up a whole new batch of agricultural problems, including new insects, new diseases, and new weeds.



Here's wishing you a bell-ringer of a New Year . . . one that's as cheery and bright as the gala celebration that sets the stage for its grand entrance.

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